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May 6, 2011

Chairman James E. Donald,
Georgia State Board of Pardons & Paroles
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 458, Balcony Level, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Donald,

I write to you as an advocate for law enforcement officers and as a former police officer. Every day police officers put their lives on the line to keep communities safe. The loss of a police officer to murder is a horrible tragedy for the individuals loved ones, the law enforcement colleagues and the community at large. It was especially outrageous in this case that the fallen officer, Mark Allen MacPhail, was shot dead while trying to help a vulnerable citizen who had been assaulted. The terrible nature of this crime and all that it represents is undeniable.

The tremendous number of contradictions in witness testimony and the lack of hard evidence linking anyone to the shooting of Officer MacPhail is also undeniable. Under these circumstances, it would be difficult to imagine that the jury that served at the 1991 trial of Troy Davis would likely arrive at the same conclusion they did back then today.

Somebody murdered Officer MacPhail and someone must be held accountable. Allowing the execution of someone under a cloud of doubt about guilt seems both unnecessary and far too risky. Executive clemency is a crucial power entrusted to this board for good reasons. Try as we may as public servants committed to enforcing the law, we sometimes make mistakes. Some mistakes, however, cannot be rectified. This is the case with a wrongful execution. I respectfully ask that you grant clemency to Troy Davis and prevent the risk of a horrible mistake that would be impossible to correct. Commuting his sentence to life would eliminate this risk.

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With such uncertainty, allowing Davis' execution to proceed would surely undermine public confidence and trust in law enforcement and our legal system. Thank you for considering this plea and for examining this case so diligently.

Sincerely,



Ron Hampton

Past Executive Director of the National Black Police Association